GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2341
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
COCONUT YIELD IN KERALA
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that yield from coconut cultivation in Kerala is falling drastically;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir. The yield per hectare of coconut in Kerala has increased from 5793 nuts in 1997-98 to 5870 nuts in 2000-2001.

(b): However, reasons identified for low yield of coconut in Kerala are:
(i) widespread prevalence of pest and diseases especially the debilitating root wilt disease and Eriophyid mite attack;
(ii) high density planting;
(iii) prevalence of large number of senile and unproductive palms; and
(iv) low adoption of scientific management practices.

(c): For increasing production and productivity of coconut, product diversification and by-product utilization, the Coconut Development Board is implementing Central SectorScheme on Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India during 9th Plan with an allocation of Rs.174.00 crores. The component programmes for increasing production are:
(i) production and distribution of planting material;
(ii) expansion of area under coconut; and
(iii) integrated farming for productivity improvement.